

REMARKS

The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments above and comments which follow. As will be seen in a moment, it is submitted that no new issues have been raised, and this response ought to be entered and the application allowed.

The amended claims include two independent claims, amended claim 1 and new claim 18. They correspond, respectively, to combinations of current claims 1 and 4 (insofar as claim 1 is concerned) and 1 and 5 (insofar as claim 18 is concerned).

The Examiner has rejected the claim on the basis of either anticipation or obviousness, with Ferrante US Patent No. 2,425,235 being the primary reference. Reconsideration is requested.

With regard to the key feature of the claimed invention that the warp wires extend across the shorter dimension of the rectangular opening of the support, the examiner only points to column 1 lines 24 to 26 of Ferrante which teach that "the wire mesh can be made by braiding the wires together or by cross-laying them in any desired manner". The teaching does not extend to how the woven wire mesh is orientated with respect to the supporting frame.

However, with a view to moving the application forward, applicant has amended the claims so as to cover the two primary implementations either having a square mesh (former claim 5) or a rectangular mesh (former claim 4) in the separate independent claims.

A rectangular mesh is normally woven with more warp wires per unit length than weft wires per unit length, since the time taken to weave a given length of wire cloth is dependent on the number of weft wires. Orientating such a cloth with the warp wires extending across the width of a rectangular opening is advantageous as it provides greater resistance to the higher stresses found to occur across the width of the central region of the opening.

In a configuration in which the cloth has generally square openings in accordance with new claim 18 (former claims 1+5), the warp wires have a greater cross-sectional size than the weft wires. The thicker warp wires extend perpendicularly to the length dimension of the opening and are therefore able to resist the greater stresses across the width of the central region of the opening.

Ferrante, as noted above, is silent regarding the orientation of a woven wire mesh with respect to a rectangular opening in a supporting frame. More particularly, there is no disclosure or suggestion of orientating a cloth with the warp wires extending across the width, with a greater number of warp wires than weft wires per unit length, or with the warp wires having a greater cross-section, to provide greater stress resistance across the shorter dimension of the rectangular opening as discussed in the present specification.

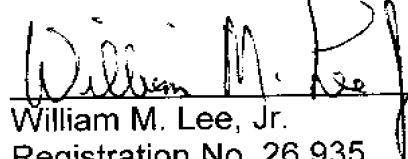
Claims 2 and 3 are unchanged. Claims 4 and 5 are cancelled. Claims 6 to 10 are unchanged. New dependent claims 19 to 23 correspond to claims 6 to 10, but are dependent on new independent claim 18.

Therefore, to reiterate, no new issues have been raised and independent claim 1 is a combination of former claims 1 and 4. Independent claim 18 is a combination of former claims 1 and 5. The remaining claims are dependent claims as explained.

Further and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore urged.

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Respectfully submitted,



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